

## Addendum to “A Review of the History and the Current Practice of Aid Evaluation”

Ryoh Sasaki

*Western Michigan University*

In the article in the previous issue of JMDE, September 2006, “A Review of the History and the Current Practice of Aid Evaluation,” I stated “the EU does not have a unified evaluation approach, because a different EU member agency takes the lead in each evaluation project.” At the time when I accessed the webpage of Europe Aid Co-operation Office (AIDCO), the guidelines of evaluation were not available. The Webpage simply stated “the methodology pages will be available in English, French and Spanish and will be accessible early 2006.” It can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/evaluation/methodology>

Recently, the Webpage was updated and now evaluation guides are available in public. They include guidelines for project/programme evaluations and for geographic/thematic evaluations. Also associated checklists, tools and other resources are available from its webpage. I conclude they are comprehensive, rigorous and state-of-the-art methodological guidelines. Also it should be understood that each member country, as well as AIDCO itself, is instructed to follow and use those guidelines. Actually the evaluation unit of AIDCO by itself takes a lead in evaluation, and the main responsibility lies in the unit even in case a member country takes a lead in a particular evaluation.

I regret the previous statement I made and I would have written “the EU has a set of unified evaluation guidelines and EU and its member countries utilize them for their aid evaluation” if the information was available at that time. In

addition, the humanitarian aid is evaluated separately by the European Commission’s Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

I appreciate the kind suggestions made by Enrique García Martín-Romo, Evaluation Officer, Evaluation Officer, Directorate-General Communication, Evaluation and Programming of European Commission. I will reflect those suggestions in my further research.